

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container from a packaging material comprising:

(a) transporting the packaging material along a packaging material transport path, through a cap attachment station, to a charging station;

(b) transporting a carrier sheet with a plurality of caps thereon to the cap attachment station, to feed caps in succession to the cap attachment station, each of the caps including a collar a collar a lid;

(c) at the cap attachment station, separating each cap in succession and attaching the separated cap onto a cap attachment portion of the packaging material prior to forming the packaging material;

(d) unseating the lid from the collar to open the cap;

(e) punching a hole in an area of the packaging material surrounded by the collar;

(f) welding an inner tape onto a reverse surface area of the packaging material around the hole and a pull tab onto an outer surface area of the packaging material around the hole in order to cover the hole;

(g) welding together the inner tape and the pull tab in the area of the hole to thereby form a rupture portion;

(h) ~~(d)~~ then forming the packaging material, on which the cap has been attached, into a predetermined shape; and

(i) ~~(e)~~ at the charging station, charging a liquid food into the formed packaging material.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10, wherein:

the packaging material is in a web-like sheet form before forming; and

the packaging material on which the cap has been attached is formed into a tubular shape.

12. -18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 10 wherein the packaging material transported from the cap attachment station to the charging station has a plurality of attached caps spaced along its length;

said process further comprising:

transversely cutting the packaging material carrying the spaced plurality of attached caps to form separate packaging container portions.

20. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing a packaging material according to claim 19 wherein the carrier sheet is in the form of a tape carrying a single linear

array of the caps.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a packaging material according to claim 10 4 wherein the carrier sheet is in the form of a tape carrying a single linear array of the caps.

22. (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging container from a packaging material having a thin wall portion preformed therein, said method comprising:

(a) transporting the packaging material along a packaging material transport path, through a cap attachment station, to a charging station;

(b) transporting a carrier sheet with a plurality of caps thereon to the cap attachment station, to feed caps in succession to the cap attachment station, each of the caps including a collar and a lid which is seated on the collar in a closed state;

(c) at the cap attachment station, separating each cap in succession and attaching the separated cap onto the packaging material, with the collar surrounding the thin wall portion, prior to forming the packaging material;

(d) unseating the lid from the collar to open the cap;

(e) welding a pull tab onto an outer surface area of the packaging material in order to cover an area surrounded by the collar;

(f) then forming the packaging material, on which the cap has been attached, into a predetermined shape; and

(g) at the charging station, charging a liquid food into the formed packaging material.

23, (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging container according to claim 22 wherein the packaging material transported from the cap attachment station to the charging station has a plurality of attached caps spaced along its length;

said process further comprising:

transversely cutting the packaging material carrying the spaced plurality of attached caps to form separate packaging container portions.

24. (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging material according to claim 23 wherein the carrier sheet is in the form of a tape carrying a single linear array of the caps.

25. (New) A method of manufacturing a packaging material according to claim 22 wherein the carrier sheet is in the form of a tape carrying a single linear array of the caps.